

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66611
DRAFTED BY: D/PW:FASIEVERTS:CAF
APPROVED BY: D/PW:FASIEVERTS
S/S-O:PJOHNSON

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P 080259Z MAY 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 107166

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT MANILA 5982 ACTION BANGKOK
INFO SECSTATE 7 MAY.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANILA 5982

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR MARTIN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AEMR
SUBJECT: REMAINS OF DEAD SAIGON MARINE SECURITY GUARDS

1. TWO MEMBERS OF THE US EMBASSY MARINE SECURITY GUARD
DETACHMENT WHO WERE AT THE TIME ON DUTY AT THE DAO
COMPOUND AT TAN SON NHUT WERE KILLED AS A RESULT OF NORTH
VIETNAMESE ROCKET AND ARTILLERY ATTACK AT ABOUT 0400 ON TUESDAY,
APRIL 29. THE TWO MARINES ARE: LANCE CORPORAL DARWIN LEE
JUDGE, SERIAL # 479 708999, AND CORPORAL CHARLES MCMAHON JR,
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SERIAL # 023 421637.

2. IN ACCORDANCE WITH NORMAL US MISSION SAIGON PROCEDURES
THE REMAINS OF THE TWO MARINES WERE FIRST TAKEN FROM THE DAO

COMPOUND TO THE NEARBY SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL MORGUE. A TELEPHONIC INQUIRY MADE WITH THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL LATER THAT DAY PRODUCED THE RESPONSE BY A VIETNAMESE RECEPTIONIST THAT THE REMAINS HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM THE HOSPITAL MORGUE. HOWEVER, AT THAT TIME THERE WAS ALREADY A GREAT DEAL OF CONFUSION IN SAIGON AND IT WAS NO LONGER PHYSICALLY POSSIBLE FOR US PERSONNEL TO REACH THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL EITHER FROM THE DAO COMPOUND OR THE EMBASSY ITSELF. IN LIGHT OF THIS FACT AND SINCE INQUIRIES AT NEARBY MILITARY STATIONS RECEIVING EVACUATIONS FLIGHTS FAILED TO CONFIRM THAT THE REMAINS WERE IN FACT EVACUATED WE BELIEVE IT MORE LIKELY THAT THE INFORMATION RECEIVED BY TELEPHONE FROM THE HOSPITAL WAS IN ERROR.

3. WE BELIEVE MOST APPROPRIATE AND PRACTICAL WAY TO RESOLVE THE QUESTION IS TO ASK THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN SAIGON TO DETERMINE THE FACTS BY CHECKING WITH WHAT VIETNAMESE PERSONNEL REMAIN AT THE SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST HOSPITAL AS WELL AS APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THAT BEST WAY OF DOING SO IS THROUGH MILITARY CHANNELS. SINCE THERE IS NO FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE IN MANILA REQUEST US DEFENSE ATTACHE BANGKOK APPROACH THE FRENCH DEFENSE ATTACHE AT THE FRENCH EMBASSY THERE AND ASK HIM TO INITIATE AN INQUIRY WITH THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN SAIGON. WE BELIEVE FRENCH MILITARY ATTACHE REMAINS IN SAIGON AND WOULD BE PROPER CHANNEL FOR THIS PURPOSE.
SULTIVAN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE107166
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: D/PW:FASIEVERTS:CAF
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750161-0222
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197505101/baaaajas.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971010
Subject: n/a
TAGS: AEMR
To: PARIS
GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006